

# USAID Progress Activity Report

## STRENGTHENING PROTECTED AREA EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT IN PERU

Project # 527-A-00-01-00157-00 under LAG-A-00-99-00048-00

Report period: October - December 2002. WWF-PPO

### I. Summary of Activity Status and Progress

#### a. *Introductory paragraph.*

WWF-PPO has made significant progress towards achieving project objectives. Already, INRENA has run the Scorecard, a management capacity matrix developed through this project, twice in 49 Natural Protected Area's (NPA) and has produced reports analyzing the results. WWF-PPO has also been implementing activities to resolve land tenure conflicts in eight of nine target NPA, through activities including public registry research and landmark sign posting. Also, WWF-PPO continues to provide support to the Paracas National Reserve (PNR), and this semester critical stakeholders approved a revised Master Plan for the area, which includes strategies developed in a highly participatory manner. A WWF-PPO consultant also produced a draft report presenting activities that will be critical to the Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan for the PNR.

#### b. *Highlights.*

- The Scorecard for monitoring effective management in the Peruvian National Protected Area System (SINANPE) has been run twice in 49 NPAs, and reports analyzing each running have been produced.
- WWF-PPO completed the biological monitoring conceptual framework and preliminary indicators for the PNR and the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve (PSNR).
- In collaboration with INRENA personnel in Lima and in NPAs, WWF-PPO has initiated land tenure activities in eight of nine NPA. Already, land owners have been identified in the PNR and Pomac Forest Historic Sanctuary, and land tenure agreements have been signed in the Tambopata National Reserve.
- The Technical Team completed the PNR Master Plan, which is currently being revised by INRENA. A proposed buffer zone for the area was included this semester, and the plan was validated by key stakeholders.
- The Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan for the PNR has been revised and expanded. A WWF-PPO consultant will have the final draft ready for INRENA review over the next three months.

#### c. *Table of Activity Status*

Activity Number	Activity Title	Status	Page number for more information
1	Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE	On-going	2
2	Land tenure issues review and conflict resolution in the SINANPE protected area network	On-going	4
3	Support for strengthening the Paracas National Reserve	On-going	5

## II. Detailed Description of Site Progress

### *a. Key short and long-term program objectives for the site.*

Project goals will be accomplished through three main objectives:

1. Promote effective management in all 52 protected areas within the SINANPE protected area network through the development of an overall monitoring system to gauge effective management and conservation action impact.
2. Review and resolve land tenure issues and conflicts within 9\* priority protected areas of the SINANPE.
3. Support the effective management of the PNR through the update of the Master Plan that defines priority conservation and threat mitigation activities and lays down a long-term financial and technical sustainability plan.

\* In the original proposal, the PPO aimed to ensure that ten protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries, but due to complexities discovered through the priority-setting process this number was reduced to nine.

### *b. Summary of Progress for Site* (if this provides added value or clarity, otherwise skip this)

### *c. Activity Description*

#### **i. Activity Title : Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE**

#### **ii. Summary of major achievements and progress**

- As of the last reporting period, the validated version of the Scorecard had been run twice in almost all NPAs. Over the past three months, the final Scorecard runnings were completed so that all 49 NPA with INRENA presence have now been covered at least twice. Based on the results, analytic reports have been prepared, using 2001 information as baseline data.
- This analytic information, and the Scorecard matrix itself, were presented to INRENA personnel in an internal workshop held in December to discuss monitoring of NPA administration, among other issues. As a result of this presentation, NPA personnel decided to simplify the matrix, making it more user friendly, as envisioned by this project. Another recommendation generated from the meeting was to increase NPA personnel training regarding the use, application, and interpretation of matrix results. Workshop participants concluded that while the matrix will continue to improve, already it serves as a very useful planning and administration tool for NPAs. NPA chiefs area now incorporating runnings of the matrix into next year's NPA Annual Operating Plans.
- A comparative analysis of 2001 baseline results and results from the second running of the scorecard reveals that:
  - Some NPA's, like the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, that received high scores in 2001 maintained these ratings in 2002, indicating that although management conditions in these areas were already good, they have not improved over the course of the year. However, in other areas, like the Lagunas de Mejia National Sanctuary and the Abiseo National Park, ratings have increased. Lagunas de Mejia National Sanctuary is now the area with the highest score in the entire SINANPE.
  - Overall, National Sanctuaries have received the highest scores on average, followed by National Reserves and then National Parks. Although fully accurate comparisons cannot actually be made

- between different NPAs or categories of NPA, it is interesting to note that some NPA have improved at the system level while others have not.
- It is important to note that these results must be considered with much care, as in some cases NPA personnel that have filled in the matrix are not very clear on the proceedings. For this reason, it is recommended that INRENA conduct more training on this issue. In the meantime, the matrix runnings themselves help to train personnel regarding the importance of monitoring NPAs, and contribute to continued improvement of the matrix.
  - In late 2002, INRENA hired an international consultant for three months to develop indicators for SINANPE management, and the group has already initiated activities. Although the product sought from this consultancy differs from the matrix, in many ways the two products overlap, presenting the danger of unnecessarily duplicating efforts. To avoid this outcome and to ensure that results are developed collaboratively, developments are being made at the monitoring group level. If there are elements of the matrix that overlap with INRENA consultant's efforts, the group will be able to incorporate these elements into their final product and to further refine the matrix in the process.
  - WWF-PPO has completed the process of defining the indicators and suggested protocols for the biological monitoring system. Two of the three indicators for Paracas National Reserve were based on already existing monitoring activities: mollusk population parameters and shore birds, while the third requires the start of vegetation monitoring in the Lomas plant community. In the case of Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, one indicator is based on ongoing monitoring of paiche, the second on remote sensing of vegetation changes, and the third on the extent of illegal activities. The conceptual framework and proposed indicators will be presented to USAID in January and then submitted to INRENA, where it is expected that some modifications will occur.
  - A framework for the Overall Monitoring System has been developed, and presented to INRENA for revision. All comments received to date have been incorporated into the system. Based on this framework, INRENA will collaborate with the IUCN monitoring group to develop a product that provides a framework for SINANPE monitoring activities.

### iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status
1.1	<b>Implementation of scorecard to Monitor Effective Management</b>	
1.1.1	Validated and approved protected area management monitoring scorecard	Completed
1.1.2	Scorecard implementation plan and timetable for all SINANPE protected areas	Completed
1.1.3	Baseline data (year 2001) of all SINANPE protected areas based on scorecard application	Completed
1.2	<b>Biological Monitoring System Complete</b>	
1.2.1	Completion of a set of preliminary indicator species, communities and ecological processes	Completed
1.2.2	Completion of variable and indicator monitoring protocols	On-track
1.3	<b>Overall Monitoring System Complete</b>	
1.3.1	Completion of SINANPE Overall Monitoring System	On-track
1.3.2	Implementation of Overall Monitoring System and activities timetable	Pending

#### iv. Key management issues

- NPA personnel in some instances present challenges to effective matrix implementation. INRENA has instituted several recent personnel changes, making it difficult for matrix trainings already conducted to impact scorecard runnings. Nevertheless, it is critical that more training be conducted, and that more emphasis be placed on developing a clear and straight forward user manual for NPA personnel. Further, INRENA's revised version of the matrix will hopefully be shorter and easier to implement as a result of the collaborative revision process. At least one training for NPA chiefs is already being planned, tentatively for March.

#### i. Activity Title : Land Tenure Issues Review and Conflict Resolution in the SINANPE Protected Area Network

#### ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- During this report period, WWF-PPO began work in the four previously selected areas, as well as in four additional ones. Lawyers are already in the field supporting these efforts, and have developed several activities achieving concrete products:
  - **Pómac Historic Sanctuary:** Extensive information has been gathered from the public registry regarding municipalities and other government agencies; a sign post has been constructed.
  - **Tambopata National Reserve:** Two sign posts have been installed between the Palma Real and Sonene communities in the Reserve. Land tenure agreements have been signed between these communities, and a legal report was prepared on mining activities in the area.
  - **Paracas National Reserve:** Information gathering is underway and requirements have been identified for land tenure agreements with Puertos National Enterprise, among others. WWF-PPO has also initiated paperwork required by the *Programa Especial de Titulacion de Tierras* (PETT) and with the public registry to inscribe the PNR and to comply with legal land use restrictions. In addition, secondary sign posts have been established at the area's northern limits and 22 sign posts have been repainted. Information has been gathered regarding faults in NPA boundary demarcation, and a Supreme Decree has been developed to modify these faults.
  - **Abiseo National Park:** Proceedings have been identified to inscribe Park property into the public registries, land tenure agreements have been developed, and information gathering is underway regarding mining concessions.
  - **Bahuaja Sonene National Park:** Information gathering and registration study are underway.
  - **Amarakaeri Communal Reserve:** Registry information is being gathered from the Public Registry office and further information gathering for the construction of a control post is underway.
  - **Alto Purús Reserve Zone:** Information gathering for the construction of a control post is underway.

#### iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status
2.1	Digitalized maps and ground-truthing implementation plan of SINANPE	On-track
2.2	At least 9 protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries	On-track
2.3	Protected area land tenure conflict resolution agreement documents	On-track
2.4	Omnibus bill final draft	Pending <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The final draft of the omnibus bill remains pending because its content will depend on the results of the land tenure issues review and conflict management activities currently being conducted by the PPO, as well as on the results of similar activities being conducted by INRENA and other organizations in other NPAs. This product will likely be delivered towards the end of the project.

**iv. Key management issues**

- Some public registries have not been processing administrative requests as rapidly as anticipated. WWF-PPO will continue to push the registries and will dedicate additional resources to ensuring that documents submitted to the registries are as fully developed as possible in order to speed up the process. In addition, WWF-PPO has faced some unexpected delays in efforts to establish land tenure agreements due to the fact that individuals located in rural areas have frequently been quite difficult to contact. WWF-PPO will continue to travel to the field in order to push forward these agreements.

**i. Activity Title : Support for Strengthening of the Paracas National Reserve**

**ii. Summary of major achievements and progress**

- The Technical Team updating the Reserve’s Master Plan completed the final version of the plan this reporting period. This Plan includes objectives and strategies for management of the NPA, which have been developed in a highly participatory manner. This version responds to all of the concerns of local stakeholders, including fishermen, tourist businesses, the Ministry of Defense, and others, is currently being revised by INRENA.
- Over the last three months, the technical team developed criteria to determine the Reserve’s buffer zone, which was ultimately identified. As an element of the Master Plan, the buffer zone will be reviewed and approved by the PNR and the INRENA office in Lima.
- The consultant that will develop the Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan for the PNR has prepared a report presenting activities that will form a part of the draft proposal currently being completed. The current draft is a product of numerous meetings with INRENA, NGO representatives, local stakeholders, the PNR tourism sector, and other key players. The report includes elements such as:
  - A report on tourist profiles, demands in terms of service quality, and the economic value of environmental goods and services in the PNR.
  - Identification of potential income sources for environmental services and proposals for securing funds, bringing together financial and programmatic strategies.
  - Processed workshop information for incorporation into the plan.
  - Economic and financial sustainability strategic plan for the next 30 years.

**iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks**

<b>Benchmark Number</b>	<b>Benchmark/Output</b>	<b>Status*</b>
3.1	Technical Team hired	Completed
3.2	Paracas National Reserve Master Plan consulted, validated, and approved by DGANP/INRENA	On-track
3.3	Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan (FTSP) validated and approved	On-track
3.4	Paracas National Reserve Master Plan and FTSP published and disseminated	On-track

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#### **iv. Key management issues**

- Although the Master Plan has been approved by key stakeholders, who also participated directly in the development of the Plan, INRENA claims to have some reservations regarding the Plan's content. In spite of these reservations, in December INRENA published a resolution formally approving the Master Plan, although they have not published or distributed the approved version of the Plan. Over the next three months, WWF-PPO will push INRENA to resolve their concerns and produce a final version of the Plan.

### **III. Success Stories and Other Appendices**

When appropriate and possible, include one or more one-page success stories appropriate for public dissemination.